



National Weather Service Aberdeen, South Dakota



April 2009

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Severe Weather Awareness Week

South Dakota and Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week

April 20th-24th

South Dakota Tornado Drill Wednesday, April 22nd

10:00 am—Simulated Tornado Watch
10:15 am—Simulated Tornado Warning
10:30—An “end of test” message will be issued

Minnesota Tornado Drill Thursday, April 23rd

9:00 am—Simulated Tornado Watch
1:45 pm—Simulated Tornado Warning
2:00 pm—An “end of test” message will be issued
6:55 pm—Simulated Tornado Warning
7:10 pm—An “end of test” message will be issued

Severe Weather Safety

Tornado Safety

Abandon mobile homes
Go to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor.
Cover yourself with a mattress or blanket.

If you have time:

- Put bicycle helmets on children
- Put on sturdy shoes
- Find your purse/wallet or keys
- Put infants in car seats
- Put collars and ID tags on pets

DO NOT open your windows.



Flash Flood Safety

Abandon your home if evacuation is recommended and get to higher ground.
NEVER drive into water covering the road.
Be especially cautious at night when driving when it is harder to recognize flooding dangers.
Do not camp near flash flood prone creeks and streams.

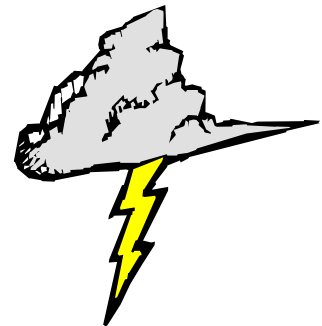
Just six inches of fast moving water will knock you off your feet, and a depth of two feet will float your car.



Lightning Safety

If outdoors, get into a sturdy building or a vehicle.
Avoid being the tallest object around. Do not stand under trees or power poles.
Get out of the water.
Do not use electrical appliances and unplug unnecessary ones.
Do not bathe or shower during a thunderstorm.
Stay away from windows or doors.

When you see the flash...count the number of seconds to the bang of thunder. Every 5 seconds equals one mile...so divide the number of seconds by 5 and that is how many miles to the where the lightning struck.



Be A CoCoRaHS Observer

Did you ever wish to serve as a Cooperative Observer but just do not have the time for consistent daily observations? Perhaps the CoCoRaHS program is for you! CoCoRaHS stands for Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network. It is an all volunteer network of people from across the country working together to measure and track precipitation. Every time there is a precipitation event (rain, snow or hail) the CoCoRaHS observer takes a measurement for his or her location with a 4" gauge. The reports received are important, as they enhance the available pool of precipitation data available. This is especially important for precipitation events with a wide range of values. For example, during a thunderstorm event, some folks receive little to no rain, while others receive quite a bit. Also, during winter months, CoCoRaHS reports help to track snowfall and snow depth. Anyone can join CoCoRaHS, with the more the merrier. Sign up is easy, and is done at the following website: <http://www.cocorahs.org/>. Then click on the "Join CoCoRaHS" link (as shown below).

Also located on the website is plenty of educational training on all things precipitation. If you would like to find out more about CoCoRaHS, check out the website, or call the Aberdeen NWS Office at 605-225-0519 and ask for Tim Kearns.

Winter Snowfall

Aberdeen's Snowfall Compared to Last Year's and Seasonal Normal

	Last Year's	Normal	This Year's
Month	Amount	Average	Amount
October	0.0	0.8	0.0
November	0.2	7.6	2.7
December	11.6	5.8	16.9
January	1.2	7.3	10.5
February	4.4	6.4	10.2
March	13.0	8.0	16.0
April	8.2	2.7	Trace
Totals	38.6	38.6	56.3

The normal snowfall for the entire season is 38.6 inches.
The snow season is from Sept. to May.

Pierre's Snowfall Compared to Last Year's and Seasonal Average

	Last Year's	Normal	This Year's
Month	Amount	Average	Amount
October	0.0	1.2	0.0
November	0.0	5.1	2.1
December	6.9	5.1	11.5
January	2.6	5.4	3.7
February	4.8	5.3	6.2
March	7.0	6.7	11.1
April	2.7	3.4	2.2
Totals	24.0	32.2	36.8

The normal snowfall for the entire season is 32.2 inches.
The snow season is from Sept. to May.

Mobridge's Snowfall Compared to Last Year's and Seasonal Average

	Last Year's	Normal	This Year's
Month	Amount	Average	Amount
October	0.0	0.6	0.0
November	0.1	5.4	7.3
December	2.7	5.0	5.5
January	3.4	5.2	2.6
February	4.8	5.6	15.9
March	5.6	7.7	16.6
April	10.0	3.6	5.1
Totals	26.6	33.1	53.0

The normal snowfall for the entire season is 33.4 inches.
The snow season is from Sept. to May.

Watertown's Snowfall Compared to Last Year's and Seasonal Average

	Last Year's	Normal	This Year's
Month	Amount	Average	Amount
October	0.0	1.1	Trace
November	0.2	5.4	5.4
December	9.0	4.6	18.5
January	0.5	6.3	10.6
February	4.0	5.6	8.8
March	7.1	6.5	8.9
April	29.5	1.8	1.0
Totals	50.3	31.3	53.3

The normal snowfall for the entire season is 31.3 inches. The snow season is from Sept. to May.

Sisseton Snowfall Compared to Last Year's and Seasonal Average

	Last Year's	Normal	This Year's
Month	Amount	Average	Amount
October	0.0	0.7	Trace
November	Trace	7.6	0.6
December	10.1	5.8	19.4
January	0.9	10.1	10.4
February	3.9	6.9	15.8
March	16.9	8.5	16.1
April	15.9	3.0	0.0
Totals	47.7	42.6	62.3

The normal snowfall for the entire season is 42.6 inches. The snow season is from Sept. to May.



Fire Weather

It is time again when individuals are planning controlled burns, either for clean-up and debris removal, or clearing a field of dead vegetation in preparation for spring work. The decision to use fire does carry some risks. How those risks are managed may be the difference between a successful burn and a very costly disaster.

The use of NVWS fire weather information available on our web page gives the individual the weather information needed to plan the burn, and what the weather will be doing after the burn. Ultimately the decision is up to the property owner, and so are the consequences.

As a long time Firefighter this weather information is priceless. Decisions have to be made on the method to engage the fire, and how best to commit resources that could become trapped or run over by the fire. These decisions are all made based on the best estimate of what the weather will be doing.

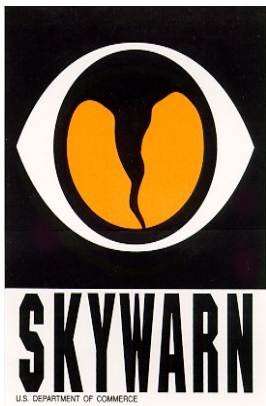
There are three factors that drive a wild fire. Fuel, topography, and weather, and of the three the one that has the greatest effect on the prairies of South Dakota is weather. To date all firefighter deaths from fighting wild land fires in South Dakota have occurred on the grass prairies. Weather was a major factor in these tragedies. Fire weather cannot be taken lightly. Use our website and stay current on the weather at: www.weather.gov/aberdeen.



Skywarn Spotter Schedule



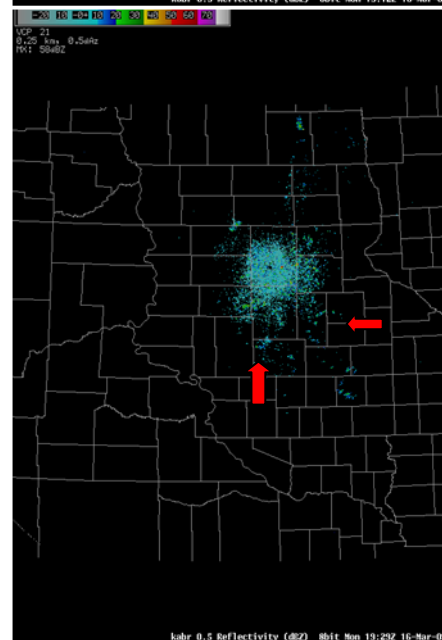
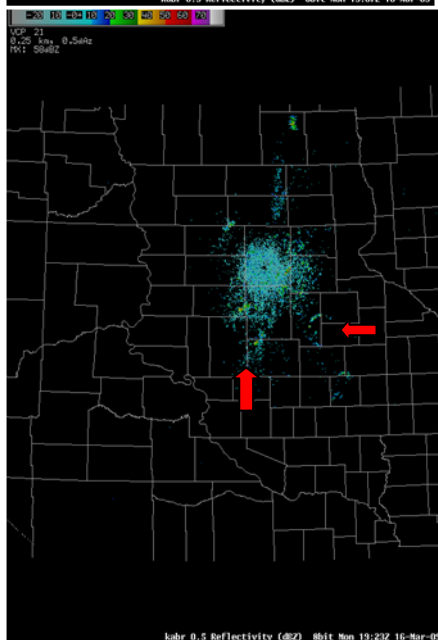
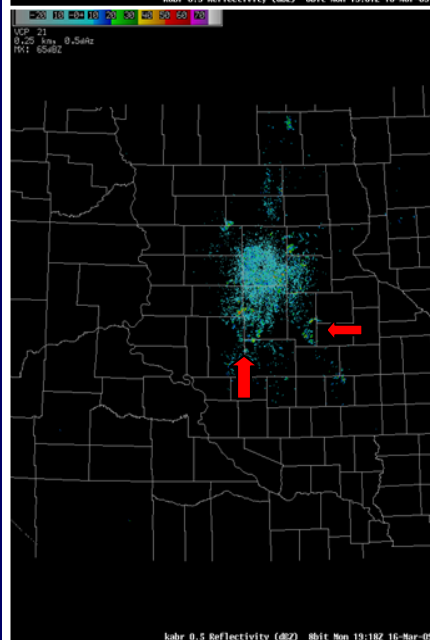
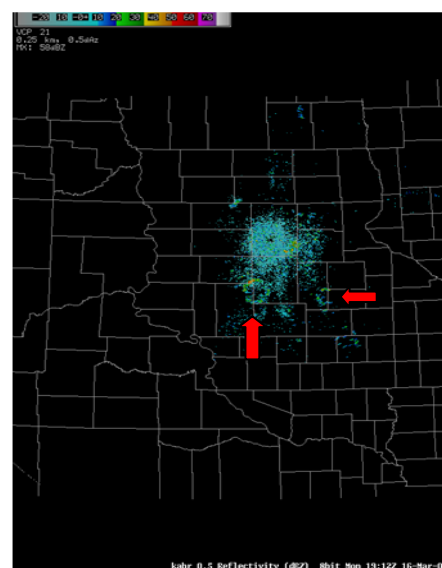
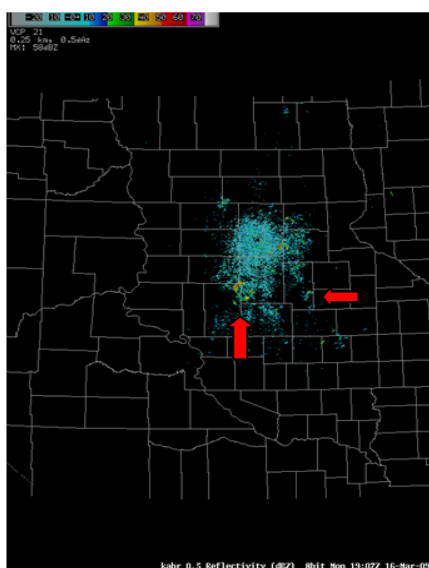
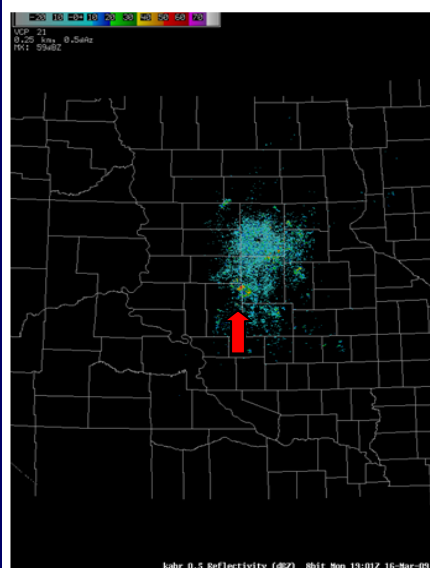
4/20 Webster, SD (Day County)	6:30pm CDT Day County Courthouse
4/21 Miller, SD (Hand County)	7:00pm CST Miller High School Theater
4/22 Pierre, SD (Hughes County)	6:30pm CDT Pierre Fire Station #1 (Dakota St)
4/23 Aberdeen, SD (Brown County)	6:30pm CDT Community Room - County Court-house Basement
4/27 Mound City, SD (Campbell County)	7:00pm CDT Mound City Community Building
4/28 Mobridge, SD (Walworth County)	7:00pm CDT Mobridge Fire Hall
4/29 McIntosh, SD (Corson County)	7:00pm MDT Location and Time to be determined
4/30 Isabel, SD (Dewey County)	7:00pm MDT Location to be determined
5/06 Location Undeter-mined	6:30pm CDT Location TBD
5/07 Eagle Butte, SD (Dewey County)	2:00pm MDT Wellness Center
5/07 Eagle Butte, SD (Dewey County)	6:00pm MDT Wellness Center



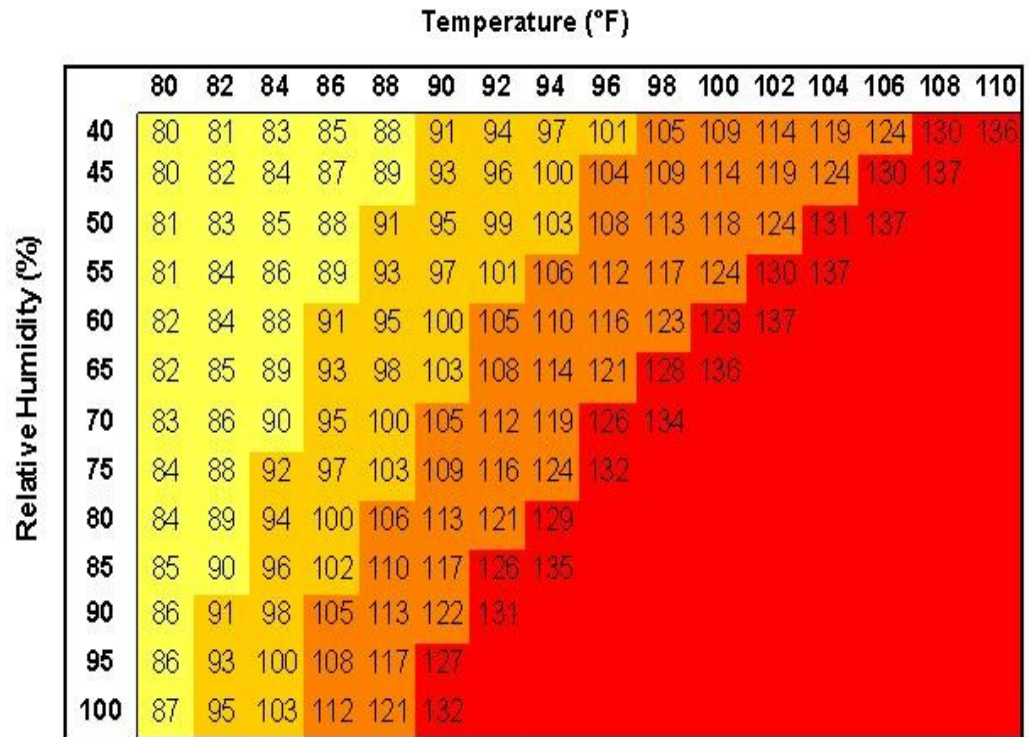
NWS Doppler Radar Detects Geese Migration

Thousands of geese have started their migration north making their way into South Dakota. As these birds fly over radar sites they can often be detected. One particular radar signature, sometimes termed a “roost ring,” could easily be seen in radar images on March 16. A “roost ring” appears as birds leave their roost and fly into the air. The ring expands until birds begin dispersing and foraging.

The six radar images below show a “roost ring” near the Cottonwood and Twin Lakes area in Spink County just south of Redfield. Another less distinguished “roost ring” can be seen near the Clark and Hamlin county borders. The first image (top left) starts around 200 PM CDT and the last image (bottom right) at around 230 PM CDT. The images are in about 5 minute intervals. The red arrows point out the two areas of interest.



Heat Index Chart



Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

■ Caution
 ■ Extreme Caution
 ■ Danger
 ■ Extreme Danger

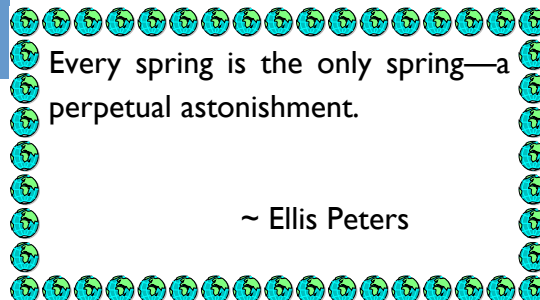
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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



www.weather.gov/aberndeen